

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A structured document management system for managing a structured document, comprising:

a decomposition part that decomposes an inputted structured document into plural partial structures in accordance with a setting and generates a hierarchical relationship between the partial structures as first structural information;

a structural information registration part that, for each of the partial structures: generates a hierarchical relationship between elements in the partial structure - as second structural information;

assigns each of the elements in the partial structure a depth first node order; and

associates a maximum node order of node orders of elements with each element in the partial structure; and

an information retaining part that retains the first structural information and the second structural information .

2. (Previously Presented) A structured document management method for managing a structured document, comprising:

decomposing an inputted structured document into plural partial structures in accordance with a setting;

generating a hierarchical relationship between the partial structures as first structural information;

generating, for each partial structure, a hierarchical relationship between elements in the partial structure as second structural information;

assigning, for each partial structure, each of the elements in the partial structure a depth first node order; and

associating, for each partial structure, a maximum node order of node orders of elements with each element in the partial structure; and

retaining the first structural information and the second structural information.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The search device according to claim 9, wherein, if the first element is the root of the first partial structure the structure search part does not determine an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and ~~a linking element~~ the mount point based on the second structural information.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The search method according to claim 10, wherein, if the first element is the root of the first partial structure, an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and ~~a linking element~~ the mount point based on the second structural information is not determined.

8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A search device for determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between a first element and a second element of a structured document, comprising:

an information retaining part that retains:

first structural information showing a hierarchical relationship between partial structures, the partial structures obtained by decomposing the structured document in accordance with a setting; and

second structural information showing, for each of the partial structures, a hierarchical relationship between elements in that partial structure, each ancestor

partial structure containing at least one element that is also a root of a child partial structure;
and

a structure search part that determines an ancestor-descendant relationship
between the first elements and the second element of the structured document by:

determining whether the two elements are in a same partial structure;

if the two elements are in the same partial structure, determining the
ancestor-descendant relationship between the two elements based on the second structural
information;

if the two elements are not in the same partial structure, determining
the ancestor-descendant relationship between a first partial structure containing the first
element and a second partial structure containing the second element based on the first
structural information;

determining if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second
partial structure based on the first structural information; and

if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure,
determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and a ~~linking~~
~~element~~mount point based on the second structural information, the ~~linking element~~mount
point contained within the first partial structure, the ~~linking element~~mount point located on a
path from the first partial structure to the second partial structure, and the ~~linking~~
~~element~~mount point a root of a child partial structure of the ancestor partial structure.

10. (New) A search method for determining an ancestor-descendant relationship
between a first element and a second element of a structured document, comprising:

retaining first structural information showing a hierarchical relationship
between partial structures, the partial structures obtained by decomposing the structured
document in accordance with a setting; and

retaining second structural information showing, for each of the partial structures, a hierarchical relationship between elements in that partial structure, each ancestor partial structure containing at least one element that is also a root of a child partial structure; and

determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first elements and the second element of the structured document by:

determining whether the two elements are in a same partial structure;

if the two elements are in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between the two elements based on the second structural information;

if the two elements are not in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between a first partial structure containing the first element and a second partial structure containing the second element based on the first structural information;

determining if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure based on the first structural information; and

if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure, determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and a linking elementmount point based on the first second information, the linking elementmount point contained within the first partial structure, the linking elementmount point located on a path from the first partial structure to the second partial structure, and the linking elementmount point a root of a child partial structure of the ancestor partial structure.